GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:414
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
CONSTRUCTION OF TREATMENT PLANT
SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some study to improve the Environment and reduce the pollution in River Yamuna has been made;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct a treatment plant at the mouth of sewer drains at Wazirabad Barrage;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.414 FOR 22.8.2000, REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF TREATMENT PLANT.

(a): A study on `Environment Management Plan for River Yamuna` has been assigned to the National Environmental Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur by the DDA. First part (or Phase-I) of the report has been submitted to DDA consisting of the initial environmental examination of the development plan in Yamuna River stretching between New Delhi Railway bridge and the proposed IL&FS bridge. Second part (or Phase-II) of the report will be finalised after the Expert Committee constituted for this purpose has examined the Draft Phase-II Report.

(b): The main recommendations of study report Phase-I are indicated in Annexure-I.

(c): No, Sir.

(d)&(e): Does not arise in view of the reply to (c) above.

ANNEXURE-I

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following generic recommendations are applicable to all pockets:

+ Areas with flourishing ecosystems are to be retained, such as reed swamp association and wooded community.
+ Green Belts in all Pockets are a must so as to conform to the guidelines, besides aesthetic appeal.
+ Ground water recharge sites to be retained, not allowing for construction/dumping on them.
+ Bunding along right bank of the stream as proposed earlier by DDA plan to be dropped.
+ All proposed activities except green belt within 300m of the 1995, September stream channel to be dropped.
+ Network of pedestrian, cyclist and non motorized vehicular pathways connecting proposed IL&FS - NOIDA Link Road Bridge, NOIDA Link Marginal Bund Road and Ring Road to be included.

The following recommendations accrue from the Initial Environmental Examination of situation in Yamuna River and its flood plains in 3 Km. Stretch between New Railway Bridge and proposed IL&FS Bridge vis-a-vis DDA`s proposals for river rejuvenation and river bed development.

LAND UTILISATION:

+ The land utilisation plan should be such so as to ensure preservation of hydrological & ecologial functions of the flood plains and environs of contiguous areas.
+ The land mass in the flood plain areas should not be allocated for solid waste disposal including flyash. The practice of flyash disposal on the flood plain area should be stopped immediately and genetation on the existing flyash dumps should be undertaken to

present the spread of the flyash in the flood plain areas during peak flood discharges and in the atmosphere. The existing flyash may be utilised in the suggested flyash brick manufacturing plant in Pocket-I.

DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT:

+ Detailed project plan for undertaking development has to be comprehensive and include details of topographic alteration, drainage management plan for flood plains and contiguous area and demonstrate adherence to the development guidelines.

+ The three drains joining this stretch would have to be desilted periodically and maintained to avoid back flow and consequent flooding of the habitations in contiguous areas. However, intervention to increase the carrying capacity of the stream channel would restrict the number of flooding episodies due to back flow.

WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT:

+ The land utilisation plan of DDA should allocate land for establishment of treatment systems for waste water from drain No.14 and Barapullah drain using Reed Bed technology.

GROUND WATER RECHARGE:

+ The green belt, recreational areas and camping sites should not alter topography and improve the water detention and retention systems to improve the groundwater recharge. The plants with high evapo-transpOAation rates should not be planted in this region.

CONSERVATION:

+ The reed swamp associations, herbaceous and wooded communities should receive 25th percentile flood waters and this is ensured while formulating development guidelines. In addition, within 100 metres. Of this ecosytems no activity may be taken up and continuous due-dehigence need to be exercised during contruction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project.

VEGETATION:

+ It is not a sound practice to plant Eucalyptus in flood plain areas as the leaves and other food material contributed by such species cannot be utilised by other species at different trophic levels in or outside stream ecosystem. Therefore, it is highly desirable that the planting of such species should be discouraged and instead the planting of indigenous and palatable species should be taken up. Planting of species whose leaf material can be broken down quickly and subsequent release of nutrients are made available to the other plant and animal species in the stream channel should be undertaken. It is recommended that the plant species association planted along critical areas should be capable of draining into the main channel and contribute the food material for aquatic life. If such naturally occurring species are planted along with riparian areas in Yamuna. It is expected that the river channel will support not only a diverse fish fauna, but will also lead to abundance of these species. This is turn will help in the rejuvenation of aquatic ecosystem of the river.